

### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~for storing data~~ comprising:  
~~the step of~~ storing first metadata ~~information with first data only~~ at the same addressable storage location of a computer readable medium as that where associated first user data is stored; and ~~in a computer readable medium, wherein the first information directly indicates the status of the first data~~ after the storing first metadata step, satisfying a read request for the first user data by retrieving the first user data from the addressable location of the computer readable medium where the first metadata is stored if the first metadata has a first value, and by reconstructing the first user data from other metadata stored at another addressable location of the computer readable medium than where the first metadata is stored if the first metadata has a second value.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first metadata ~~status~~ indicates a reliability of the first user data.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first metadata ~~information~~ is a data reliability qualifier bit.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]] wherein the first metadata ~~information~~ is embedded with the first user data.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first metadata ~~information~~ is appended with the first user data.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing second metadata only at another addressable location of the computer readable medium ~~information with~~ where associated second user data is stored ~~at another addressable location of the computer readable medium~~, the second metadata ~~information~~ indicating the status of the first user data.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the second metadata information is set to indicate indicates that the first user data is unreliable.

8. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a computer readable medium having a plurality of addressable storage locations ~~areas~~; and

circuitry configured to store first metadata only at the same addressable storage location as that where associated first user data is stored, and after storing the first metadata satisfying a read request for the first user data by retrieving the first user data from the addressable location where the first metadata is stored if the first metadata has a first value and by deriving the first user data from other metadata stored at another addressable location than where the first metadata is stored if the first metadata has a second value ~~perform at least one of a group consisting of a reading and a writing of data with respect to the storage areas, wherein at least one of the storage areas includes first information stored with first data at the same addressable storage location, wherein the first information indicates status of second data associated with the first data~~.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the circuitry includes a controller that operably stores ~~is adapted to store~~ the first metadata ~~information~~ with the first user data.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein at least another of the storage locations ~~areas~~ includes second metadata ~~information~~ stored with associated ~~the~~ second user data at another addressable storage location that is, in turn, associated with the first user data, wherein the first metadata indicates a status of the second user data.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the storage locations areas are in a RAID configuration.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the first metadata ~~information~~ is appended to the first user data.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the first metadata ~~information~~ is embedded in the first user data.

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the first metadata ~~information~~ and the first user data are generated by the same function.

22. (New) A method:

storing first metadata only at the same addressable storage location of a computer readable medium as that where associated first user data is stored; and  
after the storing first metadata step, satisfying a read request for the first user data by retrieving the first user data from the addressable location of the computer readable medium where the first metadata is stored if the first metadata has a first value, and by regenerating the first user data from other metadata stored at another addressable location of the computer readable medium than where the first metadata is stored if the first metadata has a second value.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the first metadata indicates a reliability of the first user data.

24. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the first metadata is a data reliability qualifier bit.

25. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the first metadata is embedded with the first user data.

26. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the first metadata is appended with the first user data.

27. (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of storing second metadata only at another addressable location of the computer readable medium where associated second user data is stored, the second metadata indicating the status of the first user data.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the second metadata indicates that the first user data is unreliable.